GENERAL REVERSES ABUSE TESTIMONY, PG 6

Celebrity Buzz



launches

NHL





Lindhout back with family in Alberta, says spokeswoman

HOSTAGE A spokeswoman for a journalist who was held captive in Somalia for 15 months says she has returned to Canada.

Sarah Geddes says Amanda Lindhout and her family are back safely in Alberta. She says the family has requested privacy until Lindhout is ready to tell her story.

Lindhout and Australian photographer Nigel Brennan were kidnapped by armed gunmen near Mogadishu in August 2008 while working on a story about displaced people.

Brennan has told reporters that in hindsight the Somalia trip may have been a risk he shouldn't have taken.

Reports have pegged the ransom paid for their release between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Maye

What's this barcode for? the top of pg 3





Playing the waiting game

On the web Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Edmonton Oilers centre Ryan Stone takes down Tampa Bay Lightning's Steve Downie with a punch during a second-period fight in an NHL hockey game last night in Tampa, Fla. The Oilers won 3-2. More coverage, page 14. School board mulling changes

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handvsides@metronews.ca

Big changes could be in the future of Edmonton Catholic Schools students: The closure of a north-end junior high with low enrolment, and year-round schooling for a downtown

elementary/junior high. Catholic school officials recently revealed decisions from a public board meeting held Tuesday night, where it was decided St. Catherine Elementary/Junior High, located at 10915 — 110 St., would take on a year-round schooling pilot project in August 2010.

Over 74 per cent of parents voted in favour of a "single-track" model, in which summer holidays are shortened to five weeks. Students take two weeks off in October and an additional week off during spring break.

At the same meeting, a consultation process was High, located at 11625 -135 St.

Enrolment at the school has declined 25 per cent over the past five years. Though the school has a capacity for 477 students, only 164 are currently enrolled — 111 in regular programs and 53 in special education programs.

Administration will begin working with parents for feedback. The board will revisit the issue in the

Greased lightning Mounties cleared in collision

No wrongdoing in deadly pursuit of stolen car: Inquiry

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

A recently released fatality inquiry report has cleared RCMP officers of fault in the 2005 death of 21-yearold Sarah Jouppi, who died after a police chase ended in a fiery crash.

Jouppi was a passenger in a vehicle police discovered was stolen after an officer spotted it leaving a known drug house in Vegreville around 4:30 a.m. on Oct. 10,

An RCMP corporal attempted to pull over the vehicle as hicle as it proceeded east-bound on Highway 16, though the driver accelerated in an attempt to evade the officer.

The driver, later identified as Joseph Edward Openshaw, sped between 140 and 160 kilometres per hour and turned south on Highway 36, though he quickly pulled a sharp U-turn, nearly colliding with the pursuing officer, who swerved into a ditch.

Though the officer quickly recovered and turned around, he lost sight of the fleeing vehicle.

He turned back on to Highway 16 and spotted the suspect vehicle speeding

Policy shift

 RCMP policies have changed since, and no longer allow pursuits for stolen vehicles.

east in the westbound lanes, though he slowed and let it speed ahead.

Soon after, he discovered a vehicle engulfed in flames, that had been hit by the stolen vehicle. The officer pulled the driver from the burning vehicle and dragged him to safety.

About 110 metres away, the suspect vehicle was found turned on its side. Openshaw escaped the wreck, as did a man who was sitting in the back seat.

Jouppi was found belted inside the vehicle. Severe head trauma sustained in the crash killed her instant-

A judge ruled her death was a direct result of Openshaw's criminal negligence. and that the RCMP officer followed proper pursuit policies.

It was determined Openshaw was on a multi-day crack binge at the time of

He was sentenced to 16 years in jail.

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Local



Grant MacEwan's Band Concert

Grant MacEwan University's Showcase Band Concert is a celebration of musical variety and will take the stage on Jan. 8 at the John L. Haar Theatre. The concert will also highlight the recent release of MacEwan's latest album, Song From My Heart, which showcases the creativity of the school's faculty, students and alumni. To purchase tickets to the event, which start at \$8, or to buy a CD, contact Tix on the Square.



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Edmonton tweets

• @AshleyTenille
It warmed up a couple degrees, so what does that mean? Snowing again in #yeg

• @ angelzilla finding the original polly pockets in #yeg has become increasingly impossible...i refuse to go to ebay for them though • @ CAMTA_med #yeg we need your help! We're in need of crutches for our 2010 mission. Sizes: Med (5'2-5'10) & Small (4'-5'2).



Plz ask ard & RT!

Video Peter MacKay steps up Tory defence in Afghan detainee controversy after top commander does about-face at metronews.ca/ canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 1, 15, 17, 26, 28 & 38 Bonus 44 These results are not official.

1 888 91 metro (63876)



Katelyn Quirie with the NAIT Ooks women's volleyball team gets in a last-minute practice yesterday at the NAIT gym before the squad's trip to Brazil.

Pursuit of excellence

Tourney, humanitarian work await team in Brazil

MEGAN HERKERT

For volleyball coach Keith Lundgren, providing a well-rounded education is a top priority.

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology women's volleyball team will leave Dec. 17 for a 10-day sports competition and humanitarian trip to Brazil. The opportunity came only after the committed coach proved that teams who get to travel internationally improve their chances of winning.

However, for Lundgren, the trip is about more than just victories. "The idea behind the whole trip was to make it a complete educational and athletic experience to tie in with post-secondary education," Lundgren said.

For Lundgren, there are many benefits in an international travel opportunity. The players will get to experience volleyball at a whole different level, they will learn about the culture and language in Brazil, and, most importantly, they will learn life skills while experiencing a reality much different than North America's.

"I think it's going really to open up their eyes to how big the world and how different the world is," Lundgren said.

In addition to participating in an international tournament and working with a Brazilian coach, the women will do humanitarian work when they host a sports camp for needy children.

"I know that's a really important part of even what we do here in Edmonton," Lundgren said of giving back to communities.

Ultimately, he sees the trip as a chance to create stronger individuals, which will in turn build a stronger team.

"The stronger that the team is emotionally, the stronger they are going to be against adversity."

Students give back with doghouses

MEGAN HERKERT

for Metro Edmontor

AWARENESS Students at M.E. LaZerte High School are giving back to the community with the Habitat for Hounds project. The Pets and Animal

The Pets and Animal Wellness Student Group, in conjunction with a school construction class, presented the Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART) with 12 doghouses yesterday. This donation was one project in the group's campaign to raise awareness about animal compassion.

The hart organization is a not-for-profit organization that rescues stray or abandoned dogs and gives them medical attention. For HART president Wayne Tischer, the donation was akin to a gift. "(The dogs) usually come in and they are hungry, they are sick, they are injured ... This is just like an early Christmas present."

Wayne Tischer, HART president

"(The dogs) usually come in and they are hungry, they are sick, they are injured, and our medical costs are very high. This is just like an early Christmas present," he said.

For Tischer, seeing such community awareness in young people is inspiring.

"To see it coming from people of this age, its unreal. It's very, very reassuring for the youth of this area."

Attempted-murder charge laid after domestic incident

CRIME A Whitecourt man is facing an attempted-murder charge following an apparent domestic dispute on Saturday.

Police believe the 41year-old victim was threatened with death, confined, hit repeatedly in the head and face, and strangled until she fainted.

Timmie Terrance Reeves,

42, has been charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, unlawful confinement, attempt to overcome resistance and two counts of uttering threats.

Reeves was known to police and arrested without incident. He is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 12.

METRO EDMONTON

News in brief

ARREST A 25-year-old male was taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening knife wounds following a personal robbery Tuesday night. Cory Oldwoman, 20, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, possession of a dangerous weapon and personal robbery.

METRO EDMONTON



Unique gift offerings at weekend show

Make It heats up Edmonton this weekend at the Alberta Aviation Museum. Shop from over 115 designers and artisans from all over Canada and find one-of-a-kind gifts for the holiday season. You can delight all your senses with top DJ's spinning and holiday treats to nibble on. METRO EDMONTON

Hog farmers struggle to stay afloat

teeters on the brink of collapse, producer Herman Simons is thinking about his children and trying to be optimistic about the coming year.

Simons moved to Canada from Holland 21 years ago with only two suitcases

By the numbers

• In 1986, there were more than 36,400 hog producers in Canada. By the end of this year, that number will be down to about 7,000.

and a dream of owning his

What's behind four J.D. Power

and Associates awards?

hard and encouraged by governments to expand, Simons saw his operation near Tees, Alta., flourish as he and other Canadian producers put pork on dinner tables around the world.

But over the last three years thousands of hog farmers have been driven out of the industry by low prices, high production protectionist U.S. costs, trade rules and, more re cently, by the effect of H1N1 on pork markets.

Producer groups such as the Canadian Pork Council and Alberta Pork are trying

so it can compete in the face of a strong Canadian dollar and high feed costs.

The long-term plan involves transforming the country's pork from a mere commodity into a recognizable brand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers allege they paid \$6K for job in fast food

CHARGES An employment agency has been charged with collecting thousands of dollars in fees to place foreign workers in fastfood jobs in Calgary. J.F. Garcia Manpower

Services, owned by Jose Garcia, is alleged to have charged two workers from the Philippines \$6,000 each to find them jobs at fast-food outlets in 2007.

The restaurant owners contacted provincial authorities when they became aware of the fees.

Garcia faces two counts of charging workers illegal fees and two counts of operating an employment agency without a provin-

Service Alberta Minister Heather Klimchuk says against recruitment fees prevent employment agencies from taking ad-

Garcia is scheduled to make his first court

Hunt farms on table,

ME INDUSTRY A conservation group says Alberta is once again considering allowing people to pay a fee to hunt domestically raised elk and deer on

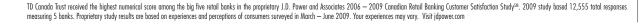
The Alberta Fish and Game Association says it has heard that talks are underway at the legislature to allow hunt farms as a way of helping the struggling game farm industry

Martin Sharren, the association's executive director, says such a move would be unethical and could lead to more animals contracting infectious diseases.

Dave Ealey, a spokesman for Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, says he is not aware of any proposals for hunt farms.

And he says if there were proposals, the government would consult with the public before considering them.

In 2001 Alberta rejected a proposal to establish hunt farms after a public backlash against the idea.







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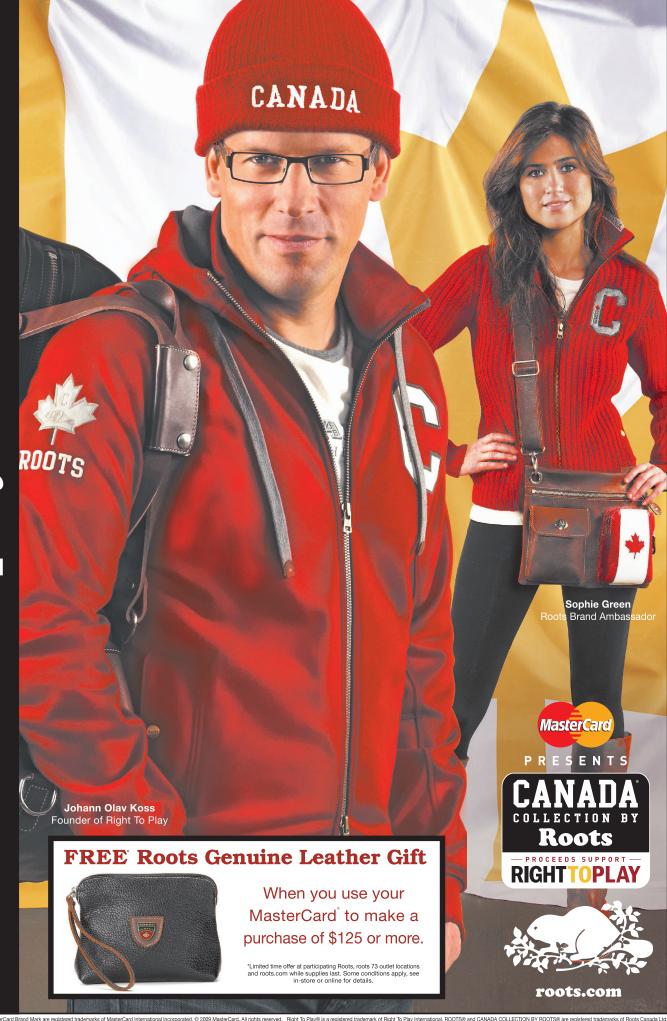
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en children play the world wins



6

Injured hockey player sues for worker's compensation

A Canadian hockey player hurt while playing for a minor league team in Rhode Island is suing for worker's compensation in Michigan. The state Supreme Court heard oral arguments yesterday on 39-year-old Andy Bezeau's appeal of a Michigan board's ruling denying him coverage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada



Grits say equal pay a human right Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says equal pay for work of equal value is a basic human right that should never be put up for grabs at the collective bargaining table. To that end, he has introduced a private member's bill aimed at reversing a controversial measure in the 2009 federal budget. The budget essentially reclassified pay equity as a labour issue to be negotiated in collective agreements, stripping the Canadian Human Rights Commission of its authority.

New ambassador to U.S. Doer headed to Copenhagen talks

Canada's man in Washington is going to Copenhagen.

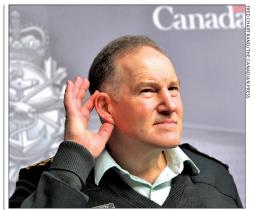
The Harper government will dispatch Ambassador Gary Doer to climate talks in the Danish capital, The

Canadian Press has learned.

Sources confirm Canada's newly minted ambassador to the United States will be part of a 16-member group of "eminent expert

The group is also made up of heads of industry, in-cluding the CEOs of Calgary-based companies Atco Ltd. and TransAlta Corp.

Some members of the group apparently met re-cently in Calgary for a pre-Copenhagen briefing with Environment Minister Jim Prentice. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Gen. Walter Natynczyk holds a news conference at National Defence headquarters in Ottawa yesterday.

Prisoner beaten: Top general

The country's top military commander reversed himself yesterday and put rising pressure on the government with the explosive assertion that a beaten and bloodied Canadian-captured prisoner was indeed abused by Afghan authorities prior to

The about-face by Gen. Walt Natynczyk who had earlier insisted Canadians had not detained the suspected Taliban in June 2006 — undercuts one of the Conservative govern-ment's key lines of defence in the widening controversy over the handling of insurgent prisoners.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay has categorically insisted "there is not a single, proven allegation" of abuse prior to 2007.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper brushed aside the revelation by saying it "confirms what we have been saving all along.

But, in a recalibration of the government's position,

Harper told the House of Commons that the military acted when they uncovered "substantive evidence" of abuse. Previously, Harper and MacKay have said there was no such evidence.

Natynczyk's revelation also raises questions about whether Canada violated international law by continuing to transfer prisoners to Afghan custody after it had evidence of abuse.

The general skirted questions about any potential political fallout and said he's ordered a board of inquiry investigation into why neither he, nor his predecessor, Rick Hillier, saw a platoon commander's report which detailed the prisoner's capture.

A University of Ottawa law professor says the report represents "incontrovertible proof" that Canada should have stopped transfers right away and that continuing the practice means Ottawa has violated international law.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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News in brief

DOG A dog continued to fight even after it had been shot after its jaws latched onto a police officer's leg. "The bullet hit the dog in the spine ... but it continued to growl and snarl," Ontario Provincial Police Const. Peter Bertin said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mother relieved as suspect charged

Cousin of slain N.B. teen faces murder rap

The mother of a 16-yearold girl whose death and disappearance gripped residents of a small northern **New Brunswick community** says she feels a small meas ure of justice after the victim's cousin was charged with murder.

RCMP charged Curtis Bonnell with first-degree murder after a massive investigation into the death of his cousin, Hilary Bon-

"It's a little bit of justice for my little girl," Hilary's mother, Pamela Fillier, said yesterday. "(But) it's not over. It's far from over."

The body of Hilary Bon-nell of Esgenoopetitj First Nation, also known as Burnt Church, was found last month buried in a remote wooded area that's part of a former military training area.
She had been missing



Hilary Bonnell

since Sept. 5 after attending a house party the night before on the reserve of 1,100, setting off an extensive

Her last confirmed sighting was recorded on surveillance footage at a convenience store in the communi-

RCMP Insp. Roch Fortin the investigation, which involved more than 200 officers, was arduous

from the beginning.

"The investigation has been complex and we have had RCMP members literalworking around the clock since we first received the call that Hilary was missing," Fortin told a news conference in nearby Tracadie-Sheila.

"The support from Hilary's family and from the people of the First Nation of Burnt Church has been appreciated.'

He alleged that Curtis Bonnell acted alone, adding that the location where the girl's body was found was very remote and that no one in the community should feel they failed by not finding her sooner.

Bonnell has not had an opportunity to enter a plea and the murder charge against him has not been proven in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PLANE CRASH An investigation into a plane crash in Alberta that killed five people concluded a similar crash could happen again. The Transportation Safety Board found that the single-engine Piper aircraft was overloaded, the pilot lacked refresher training and the aircraft's gyroscope failed due to lack of maintenance. The board suggests that a similar combination of errors would make it difficult for a pilot to handle an aircraft. The plane was owned by A.D. Williams Engineering, and the crash near Wainwright killed company president Reagan Williams, two senior employees and two contractors. CAMPING The B.C. Court of Ap-

peal has upheld a lower court ruling that struck down a city of Victoria bylaw that banned camping in city parks by the homeless. A judge ruled last fall that it is unconstitutional to restrict camping in its parks if all shelter beds in the city are

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal Back to '76



Bringing the past and future of Canada's Olympic Games together, Olympic torchbearer and short-track speedskater Jean-François Monette stands in front of Montreal's Olympic Stadium — the site of the 1976 Summer Olympics — during the Olympic torch relay yesterday in Montreal.

Commons backs HST in Ont., B.C.

TAX The HST appears to be a done deal for Ontario and a big step closer to reality for British Columbia.

The House of Commons voted 253-37 yesterday in favour of a 13 per cent harmonized sales tax in Ontario, 12 per cent in B.C.

The Conservatives, Liberals and Bloc Québécois supported the controversial measure, while the NDP op-

Just hours earlier, the Ontario legislature passed its own legislation and B.C. is expected to follow suit early in the new year.

The Senate will now deal with the federal HST bill. which combines the GST with provincial sales tax and transfers money to the two provinces for making

the change. Several MPs were absent for the vote, including Conservative Dona Cadman and Liberal Keith Martin who both represent ridings in B.C where the tax is unpopular. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Trying to bridge gap

Satisfying both rich, poor nations not easy: U.S. envoy

The United States for the first time outlined a dual path yesterday toward cutting greenhouse gases that would involve both the Obama administration and Congress.

Speaking at the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson described the EPA's decision that greenhouse gases should be regulated as complementary to U.S. legislation — not an effort to sup-

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Go Green

plant the work of Congress.

"This is not an either/or moment. This is a both/and moment," she told more than 100 people who packed a U.S. meeting room in the conference centre.

Negotiators at the 192country conference are also working to bridge the chasm between rich and poor countries over how to share the burden of fighting climate change.

Getting an agreement that satisfies both rich and poor nations would not be easy, said Todd Stern, the top U.S. climate envoy. "But I think an agreement is there to be had if we do this

"Ten billion will not buy developing countries' citizens enough coffins."

Lumumba Di-Aping

right," he added.

Lumumba Di-Aping of Sudan, the head of the 135member bloc of developing countries, said the \$10 billion a year that has been proposed to help poor nations fight climate change paled in comparison to the more than \$1 trillion already spent to rescue financial institutions.

"If this is the greatest risk that humanity faces, then how do you explain \$10 billion?" he said. "Ten billion will not buy developing countries' citizens enough coffins." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

England Muzzled voices



A choir of activists perform a concert yesterday in London highlighting the lack of education opportunities for girls in the developing world. Only male members of the band were allowed to sing, while girls fell silent with gags across their mouths.

Facebook rolls out changes

WEB Facebook has rolled out promised changes to beef up privacy controls, allowing users to decide exactly who sees status updates, pictures and other content.

Facebook's 350 million are now being prompted to update their privacy settings based on the new system of controls.

Users can choose to make their information accessible to anyone on the Internet, only friends, friends of friends, or only specific people. Users can also choose to send content to all their friends with the exception of just one person or a few

people — a boss, or an exboyfriend, perhaps.
Facebook founder Mark

Zuckerberg signalled the changes were coming last week. The changes also follow updates to Facebook's privacy policy posted in late October, which were in part based on recommendations filed by Canada's privacy commissioner Jennifer

Facebook elaborated more on the differences between deactivating and deleting an account, and what happens to an account after a user has died - issues that were raised by Stoddart. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drunk night leads to amputations

PENNSYLVANIA A woman who drank herself unconscious says a hospital didn't properly treat her, resulting in partial amputations of both of her legs. Shanna Hiles' medical malpractice suit against Uniontown Hospital says she passed out while sitting on the floor with her legs tucked under her. Hiles was in that position for 12 hours, and she claims hospital officials didn't properly work to re-store circulation to her legs. Instead, Hiles was transferred to a Pittsburgh hospital where both legs were amputated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

The persistence of porn



feel I owe an apology to Simon Louis Lajeunesse on behalf of my (and his) gender.

The Université de Montréal researcher, studying the effects of pornography on its male viewers, looked for a control group of guys who had never been exposed to it.

He could find none.

"Guys who do not watch pornography do not exist," the Montreal he told Gazette.

It's encouraging that Lajeunesse found no evidence of ill effects often ascribed to pornography by its critics, because whatever dirty movies do to us, they seem to be doing it to pretty much every man and no small number of The study's subjects said they watched an average of 40 minutes a week. I hasten to mention that your particular boyfriend/husband/whatever is telling you the truth if he never sullies his eyes with such filth. Neither do I. Swear.

But your virtuous fella and I are obviously just about the only ones complete statistical freaks. The rest of dudedom stands guilty as charged. Sorry about that, Prof. Laje-



We cannot deny your findings, and we are not proud. Despite its enduring popularity, it's not as if the essential quality of Xrated cinema has improved vastly since 1975, when Erica Jong famously declared, "My reaction to porn films is as follows: After the first 10 minutes, I want to go home and screw. After the first 20 minutes, I never want to screw again as long as I

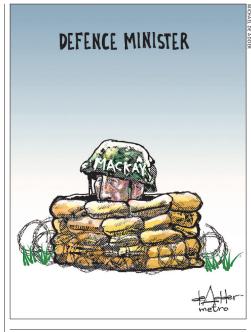
live. While Lajeunesse's resomewhat disturbingly found that a guy's first exposure to socalled adult entertainment occurred, on average, at age 10, he also saw no evidence of any effect on their relationships, or ability to separate fantasy from real-

of fact and fiction, like so does not apply to embattled golfer Tiger Woods, whose growing roster of "transgressions" allegedly includes porn star Joslyn James, a.k.a. Veronica Siwik-Daniels)

According to Laieunesse's data, 90 per cent of the porn consumed by his interviewees came from - and this too may shock you - the Internet. A very smart woman of my intimate acquaintance expresses wonder that men get anything done all day with all that porn just sitting there at the other end of every keyboard.

This modern smut delivery system has its drawbacks, as a friend of mine discovered when he tried to explain to his wife why their computer had been laid low by viruses. He received emergency technical assistance from a computer-savvy buddy, and a little advice about safer surfing, but repairing things on the home front remained his problem.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on elationships for Metro every two weeks.



Worth mentioning

Does divine bovine have a message from above?

A holy cow in Connecticut, perhaps? Or maybe a divine bovine?

A calf with a white marking on its forehead in the approximate shape of a

The mostly brown calf is half Jersey, half Holstein. Neighbourhood children have named it Moses The chairman of the Uni-

versity of Wiscon-



last week at a dairy farm in Sterling, a small rustic town on the Rhode Island border

Owner Brad Davis WFSB-TV thinks the marking may be a message from above, though he's still trying to figure out what that message might

department chairman Ric Grummer says the cross shape is un-

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Science tells the

letin newspaper it's not unusual for

a Holstein cow to

have a white mark-

ing on its head. But

Norwich

Views

Gun control law more than a symbol



This past weekend, groups across the country com-memorated the 20th anniversary of the Montreal massacre. Families of the victims mourned their loss and recommitted to defending Canada's gun control law, which they called a monument to the memory of the victims.

Twenty years ago, a man walked into l'École Polytechnique, separated the men from the women and screaming, "You are all a bunch of feminists," killed 14 young women and injured 13 others. His semiautomatic rifle — the Ruger Mini 14 — will soon be easier to get, thanks to Stephen Harper and other federal politicians.

On Nov. 4, the House of Commons passed private member's Bill C-391, a bill that will eliminate the need to register rifles and shotguns. Nervous opposition politicians spooked by a well-financed Americanstyle campaign targeting specific MPs backed the Conservatives over the objections of virtually every public safety organization in the country.

In spite of the focus on handguns and urban violence, rifles and shotguns are a substantial proportion of the guns recovered in crime in this country. They are the guns most often used to kill police officers and the guns most often used in domestic violence and in suicides, particularly involving youth. Registration ensures li-

censed gun owners are held accountable for their firearms. If gun owners are licensed but guns not registered, there is no way to prevent legal gun owners from selling or giving guns to unlicensed and potentially dangerous peo-

Opponents of gun control complain about the cost. But seven million guns have been registered. The money has been spent. The only guns that need to be registered going forward are new guns or those being traded. The costs — \$3 million a year pale in comparison to the costs of gun injury and death. And police consult the system thousands of times each day in order to take preventative action.

The law is much more than a symbol. Three hundred fewer people die from gunshots now compared to 1995, when the law passed. Our problem is not just the vocal and wellfinanced gun lobby. We can only hope that those who wore white ribbons to mark the memory of the women who died Dec. 6, 1989, will now take ac-

Wendy Cukier is the president of the Coalition for Gun Control.

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AOL Inc. may report declining profit for years after its spinoff from Time Warner Inc. today, said analysts at Barclays Capital Inc. and RBC Capital Markets. METRO NEWS SERVICES

OIL DOLLAR N.GAS **TSX** Business US **94.83**¢ US \$4.89 US \$70.67 11,379.22 US 0.84¢ US 21.6¢ US \$1.95 10.29

Shoppers play chicken These top cars

Survey finds many expecting retailers to cut their prices even further

The annual game of chicken has begun in earnest.

Consumers are waiting to see how long retailers can hold out before slashing prices even further as Christmas looms

With just 15 days left to shop, half of Canadians are only halfway through their holiday lists, a survey by Maritz Research Canada shows.

That's a higher number of people who are delaying their purchases than last year, said Rob Daniel, managing director.

It will be worth the wait, other experts said.

"There's going to be a lit-tle game of chicken with consumer," said Willy Kruh, national partner with KPMG. "Consumers



Wal-Mart is the top holiday shopping target.

already saw prices being discounted early ... So they're going to wait."

Shoppers are planning to spend \$570 on gifts on average, the same amount as last year, and they're

again favouring stores that advertise low prices, the survey found.

Wal-Mart Canada is the top holiday shopping destination for the third year in a row with 65 per cent of

consumers indicating they plan to shop there, followed by Zellers and Canadian Tire, who tied at 43 per each, the survey found.

Canadians rank sales and discounts, level of customer service, availability of staff and hours of operation as the top four most important factors in deciding where to shop, the survey found.

Clothing is the top item on gift givers' lists, fol-lowed by entertainment products and gift certifi-

However, when asked what they would like to re-ceive, the top pick was gift certificates. the survey

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

are a real steal

AUTO The Honda Civic has again wheeled into the top spot on a list of most frequently stolen vehicles.

But the number of highend models being snatched is a sign of growing appetite among thieves for luxury rides, says the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Rick Dubin, the bureau's vice-president of investigations, says they've seen the

two-door, 2000 Civic SiR atop the list before. The 1999 model of the vehicle came in third this year.

But Dubin said the real concern relates to the proliferation of luxury vehi-

The 2006 Hummer H2 four-door and four different four-door makes of the Cadillac Escalade are in the top 10. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

SHARES EnCana Corp. said vesterday it had received approval to buy back and cancel up to 37.5 million of its common shares, about 5 per cent of the total as of Nov. 30. TABLET Apple Inc. is preparing to launch a tablet personal

computer in late March or

April, with manufacturer partners poised to roll out as many as one million units per month, according to an Oppenheimer research note. The highly anticipated tablet is expected to pitch Apple into the digital book market.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Holiday luxuries for her from Dior

Dior

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DIOR

Diorshow Mascara, \$31



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14

U.S. House turns its attention to college football championship

Dismissing complaints from some members that Congress had more pressing matters, a U.S. House subcommittee approved legislation yesterday aimed at forcing college football to switch to a playoff system to determine its national champion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ports



Owens signs modelling deal

The catwalk might never be the same now that Terrell Owens, left, has signed a deal with a modelling agency. Having already launched a reality TV show and promoted his own breakfast cereal, the Buffalo Bills receiver is ready to try fashion after signing a deal with Wilhelmina

Models this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRI

Stortini does it all in win

NHL RESULTS

Oilers 3 Liahtnina







Zack Stortini did a little bit of everything and helped the Edmonton Oilers win again on the road.

Stortini scored his third goal of the season, added his fourth assist and had two fights as the Oilers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-2 last night.

"It was an eventful night," Stortini said. "That's something that's part of my game. Obviously getting on the forecheck quickly, putting pucks in the net, playing the body, fighting. These are the skills that I bring to the



Edmonton's Zack Stortini celebrates with the bench after scoring a second-period goal against Tampa Bay last night.

game, I think,"

Stortini won a battle behind the net for the puck, moved toward the slot and scored to give Edmonton a 3-2 lead at 11:07 of the second period. He fought Zenon Konopka late in the

first and again during the

"He just gives you what he's got every night and that doesn't vary a whole coach Pat Oilers Quinn said. Edmonton also got goals from Tom Gilbert

and Dustin Penner. The Oilers have won four straight on the road for the first time since Nov. 14 to Dec. 8, 2005. "I think realistically we

had to do this to get back in the picture," Edmonton captain Ethan Moreau said. This trip, if it went the other way, could define our season. We didn't want that to happen."

The Oilers complete a six-game road trip Friday at St. Louis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Esks defensive co-ordinator announces his resignation

CFL Eskimos defensive coordinator/defensive line coach Jim Daley announced his resignation vesterdav.

"Jim felt for personal reasons it was best that he step aside at this time." Eskimos head coach Richie Hall said in a release. "He worked hard to establish a

solid foundation for Jim Daley our defence.

'On a personal note, Jim has played an important role in my coaching career, and it was a privilege to work alongside him this past season. We wish Jim and his family the very best in the future."

Edmonton lost to Calgary in the division semifinal after finishing the regular season with a 9-9 record. There was no immediate word from the CFL club on a replacement.

Daley has worked for several CFL teams over his long coaching career.

After starting in Ottawa in 1991, he moved Saskatchewan. was promoted to head coach in 1996, a position he held until 1998.

Daley was also defensive line coach of the Calgary Stampeders from 2000-02 and defensive co-ordinator in 2003. In 2004, he joined the Winnipeg Blue Bombers as defensive line/special teams co-ordi-

nator. He later served as interim head coach, a position he took on full-time in 2005. THE CANADIAN PRESS









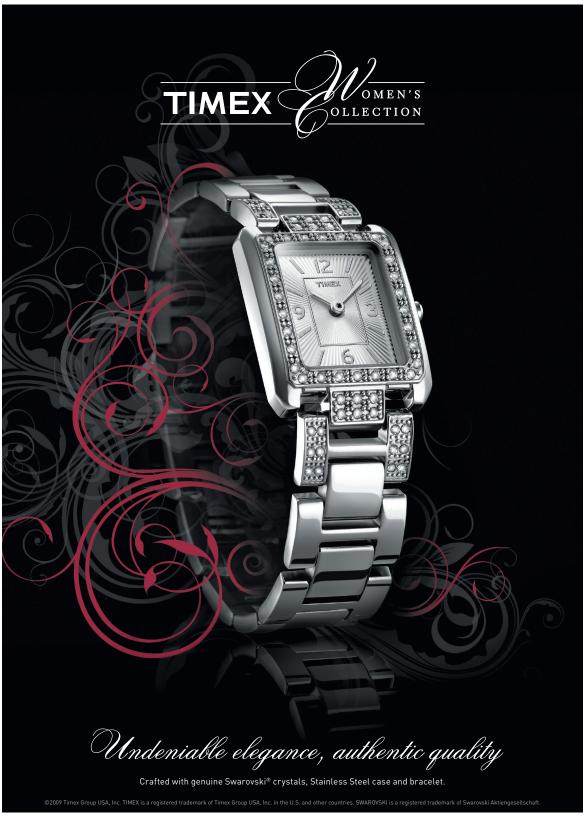






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Rangers trade Millwood

The Texas Rangers traded pitcher Kevin Millwood to the Baltimore Orioles for reliever Chris Ray and a player to be named. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Howard still perfect

With just one day of round-robin play left at the Canadian Olympic curling trials, Glenn Howard of Coldwater, Ont.. is still the man to beat.

A draw to the four-foot in an extra end kept Howard's perfect record intact yesterday as he scored a single point to beat Edmonton's Kevin Koe 7-6.

Howard (5-0) is alone in first place with two games remaining.

"One more down," said Howard. "5-0 is absolutely surreal right now.

"It's just where we want to be but we're playing well and I think we're getting a little bit better every game and I have to say the ice has never been better."

Koe, who entered the game with a 3-1 record, forced an extra end by scoring two points in the

There are few automatics in curling but giving Howard an easy draw with the game on the line is one of them.

"I felt really felt confident throwing the last

Women's trials

Cheryl Bernard remains undefeated at the Canadian Olympic curling trials.

She beat 2006 Olympic bronze medallist Shannon Kleibrink 8-5 today, scoring three in the 10th end to win the showdown between Calgary rinks.

Bernard tops the leaderboard at 5-0, while Kleibrink, Krista McCarville of Thunder Bay, Ont., and Saskatoon's Stefanie Lawton are tied at 3-2.

draw," said Howard. "Craig (Savill) made the two chip shots and I've got the real comfort zone and the fourfoot at the end to make that shot."

Koe said he was happy that he managed to force overtime, but felt his team could have done more.

"I guess we're playing well enough to beat anybody, but we gotta take advantage of the misses and we had a couple chances in this game and missed both opportunities," Koe

Co-favourite Kevin Mar-

straight win, pounding long-time rival Randy Ferbey 9-5 in a much anticipated matchup of Edmonton teams.

Martin, now alone in second place at 4-1, jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the second end cruised from there.

"It was only lopsided after three. As soon as we got the three you've got a good lead and we kept it throughout the game," said Martin, who has seen steady improvement from his teammates as well.

"There's no comparison between how we're curling now and the first two games. We were all struggling the first two games and everyone's got the jump back in their step."

Ferbey was at a loss to explain his team's poor

performance.
"It was a horrendous second end, to be honest," said Ferbey. "We had an awful end — we weren't thinking out there.

Ferbey, Koe and Winnipeg's Jeff Stoughton remain tied with 3-2 records.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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This Striped Stocking Hat for kids features Miga embroidered on the front, a pom pom and a woven patch with the Vancouver 2010 emblem. For more details or to order online, go to elevatesport.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES



A Blu-Ray Christmas

From players to what to watch, Metro has you covered

RAFAEL BRUSILOW for Metro Canada

Nothing completes the perfect holiday break like sitting inside your warm

living room with the family and watching your favourite movies and videos.

snow As the (hopefully!) falls during vour Christmas break, here are a few options to help you get the most out of your viewing experience:

Toshiba **BDX2000** Blu-Ray player

Toshiba's first Blu-Ray disc player is a clean, uncluttered design that provides full 1080p Blu-Ray playback, upconversion for regular DVDs so you don't need to don't need dump your large DVD library, and Blu-Ray specific goodies like BonusView (which lets you run things like di-rector's commentaries in a picture-in-

picture box while watch) and BD-Live, which lets you use an Internet

The Panasonic DMP-BD60 Blu-Ray player, below left, and the Panasonic SC-BTX70 Blu-Ray Cinema home theatre, right.

connection to download short features and trailers or play online games.

Best of all, the price is solid.

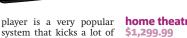
Panasonic DMP-BD60 Blu-Ray player

Another solid player at a good price point, Panasonic's value entry into the Blu-Ray player market does all the requisite 1080p/upconversion/BonusView and BD-Live stuff, but it also adds Viera Link and Viera Cast, which allow linking to PVRdevices for type recording your pro-grams and streaming Internet goodies like YouTube directly to your TV. The player al-so has built-in reduced power-consumption features like auto power stand-by and is Energy Star qualified.

LG BD390C **Blu-Ray player**

A bit pricier but well worth the cost if you like streaming stuff like YouTube movies to your TV without onto

needing your computer, LG's upper-scale Blu-Ray **Blu-Ray Cinema**



butt. Of course it has 1080p Blu-Ray playback and upconverting DVDs, high-definition video and sound with Dolby TrueHD and Dolby Digital, but it also features an external playback connection for external hard 🛭 drives, 1 gigabyte of internal memory for recording onto BD-Live without needing an external memory card, and quick-booting and loading in under 20 sec-

onds. The player's integrated Wi-Fi capabilities let you connect your TV to an Internet connection for easy streaming of online video and pictures

Panasonic SC-BTX70

home theatre

If you want to go whole hog and really upgrade voui entire home theatre setup, you would be hardpressed to find a more complete playerplus-soundsystem option for the price

than Panasonic's SC-BTX70 Blu-Ray kit. With 375 watts of audio output, built-in output, Dolby TrueHD and Digital Plus highclarity sound, whisper mode surround

sound and a Dolby Virtual Speaker, this thing really kills on the sound side. It also has 1080p playback for Blu-Ray with ultra-upconverting for DVDs in the form of PHD, which processes each pixel individually, giving it all the

necessary video power to make your TV a real centrepiece of your entertainment plans. Best of all, the system includes a universal iPod dock and SD card slot, making it even easier to watch what those digital movies you're already carrying around with you. Big sound and powerful visuals from a surprisingly compact package; if you've got the cash to spare, you won't be disappointed.

What to watch **Duplicity** \$46.99 on Blu-Ray

Featuring stellar performances from Clive Owen and Julia Roberts, Duplicity is a fun, flirty spy flick that may not be the greatest Oscar contender of the year, but is still a great view. Take bets mid-movie on who's playing who and let the winner drink all the leftover eggnog.

Public Enemies \$41.99 on Blu-Ray Another strong Jo

Johnny Depp vehicle, the film is a surprisingly poignant Depression-era gangster romp that has great action and captures the look and feel of the 1930s well. If you love Johnny - and who doesn't? - give it a go.

Battlestar Galactica Complete Series \$172.50 on DVD \$379.99 on Blu-Ŕav

An amazing show that garnered mainstream true sci-fi viewers alike, Battlestar Galactica is a keeper and this ultimate 25-disc box set is the mother of all boxed sets. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound and presented in its own snazzy display box, the set is a whole load of sci-fi awe-





These Lucia soaps, \$10 each, are made in Canada. Available in Pomegranate-Red Currant and Goat Milk-Linseed Flower. At Indigo and Chapters stores across the country. METRO NEWS SERVICES

> This G.I. Joe A Real American Hero: Complete Collectors Set comes in a toolbox with a lot of extras, including a

> > G.I. dog tag flash drive.

Holiday Shopping Guide

Gifts for the film buff MM77-00 (1) A. HADI

DVDs were designed to make the home moviewatching experience more convenient, by miniaturizing the film and the packaging.

But at this time of the year, they go in the opposite direction, losing all sense of proportion in the quest to separate movie lovers from their money.

Studios and distributors roll out the big boxes of films and artists they deem most gift-worthy, and there's no limit to their size or imagination.

Here's a selection of some of the more interesting sets, with suggestions as to whom might most like to find them under the

AK 100: 25 Films by Akira Kurosawa includes a hardcover book of photos. The Gone With the Wind: Ultimate Collector's Edition Blu-Ray, above right, includes recreations of theatre

Christmas tree. Prices quoted

may vary,

so shop around for sales.

For the true For the true film aficionado AK 100: 25 Films by Akira Kurosawa, \$364

There's almost no part of arthouse or mainstream moviegoing that Japan's Akira Kurosawa hasn't influenced: The Hidden Fortress became George Lucas' template for Star Wars; Seven Samurai started as a western tribute and turned into a much-copied icon; and Rashomon changed narrative cinema forever with its multipleviewer approach to a crime story. Kurosawa is considered by many critics to be the greatest director who ever lived, and this magnificent Criterion set celebrates what would have been his 100th birthday. It features 25 of the films he made over his 50-year ca-

reer (including four previously unavailable on DVD) plus a hardcover book of photos, descrip-tions and commentaries.

For the romantic & the restless Wind: **Ultimate Col**lector's **Edition Blu-Ray,**

Franky, my dear, if you're a fan of this Civil War love saga, 70 years old this year, you probably already own at least one copy on VHS or DVD. But if you're looking to get into Blu-Ray, here's your reason. The restored print is pristine, and comes with a host of extras, including recreations of theatre posters and pamphlets, and a wealth of

historical info on the making of this undisputed classic.

> For the gritty realist Samuel Fuller Film Collection,

Under-appreciated in his lifetime. vet gaining belated kudos thanks to Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese and other admirers, Samuel Fuller approached everything from dra-

ma to

come-

dy at

fiillbore and without fear

This set collects films the former crime reporter directed or wrote for Columbia Picincluding Shock-and Underworld tures. proof Ū.S.A.

For gung-ho regular joes G.I. Joe A Real **American Hero: Complete Collectors** Set. \$126

If you didn't get enough Joe from last summer's live-action movie adaptation, reload with this complete set



toolbox with a boatload of extras, including a G.I. dog tag flash drive.

For the light-hearted & the clumsy **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 20th Anniversary Collector's** Edition, \$42

If you're going to make a fool of yourself at Christmas, you might as well do it in style. This comedy favourite, featuring Chevy Chase's popular doofus Clark Griswold as a Yule Fool, celebrates its 20th anniversary with a Blu-Ray upgrade in a metal-can gift set that includes instant snow powder and drink coasters.

For the feel-good fanatic Forrest Gump: 15th An-

niversary Chocolate Box

Gift Set. \$27 Life is like a box of chocolates and so is this bizarre gift set, which bundles the inspirational Tom Hanks starrer and Oscar winner inside a cavity-free candy container - would you believe the chocs are just scratch-and-sniff board? But the set is loaded with featurettes and other extras that will make fans want to run with Forrest.

For the wild & not-so-innocent **Quentin Tarantino Col**lection, \$40

Aw-right! The first six films from America's favourite former video stork clerk, from Reservoir Dogs to Pulp Fiction to Deathproof. Six-disc set come with a photo book and mini Kill Bill plastic samurai sword



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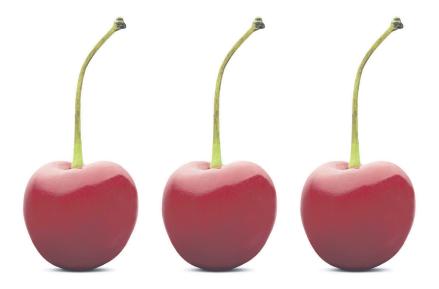
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22

All about Mickey It Was All Started By A Mouse, \$29.99 at Hallmark. Turn the crank to see a short animated scene featuring Mickey Mouse. For more, go to hallmark.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Holiday Shopping Guide

Light up your Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a joyful holiday that comes with its own rituals, foods, games, songs and stories.

That makes it easy to throw a party, especially since the traditions can be enjoyed by guests of all ages and backgrounds.

Everyone loves yummy latkes and the sight of those beautiful menorah candles lighting up a dark winter night. But the parties are not only a way for Jewish families to share their heritage; they're also a way to connect with friends and neighbours. Here are some ideas for creating the perfect Hanukkah party.

Latke

You can't have Hanukkah without latkes. These are pancakes made from shredded potatoes,

onions and eggs, with a little salt and flour mixed in, then fried golden brown and served with

applesauce and sour cream. You can buy them frozen and heat them up to ease your burdens as hostess, but making them from scratch is part of the fun.

Other Food

Fried food is traditional for Hanukkah, so try ready-made chicken wings.

Traditional sweets include jelly doughnuts (called sufganiyot) and chocolate coins covered in metal foil (called gelt). Put a bowl of chocolate gelt on the table, or hand out party bags with a

dreidel and some chocolate coins in each. **Dreidels**

To play dreidel, small wooden or plastic dreidels are best. You'll also need

pennies, 10 for each player and more for a communal pot. If you don't have enough pennies, use dried beans, wrapped chocolate gelt or even poker chips.

gelt or even poker chips.
Each side of the dreidel bears a different Hebrew letter. The letter facing up when the top stops spinning determines what happens in the game. Make a chart for the rules so everyone can follow.

Crafts, songs and stories

Set up a table for art activities for younger kids. Judaica stores and websites offer all sorts of Hanukkahthemed colouring books, stickers, dreidels to decorate and other projects.

CROWIZ/HELASSOCIATE DI PRESS

Latkes are a traditional Hanukkah food.

Candles

Menorahs are lit at sundown. Make sure you have enough candles and set the menorahs in a spot where they won't pose a fire dan-

ger.

Many of your guests won't know how to sing the prayers, but all you need is a few strong voices to lead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Zhu Zhu Pets riding the wave of holiday success

When Lori Fowlkes first saw robotic Zhu Zhu Pets toy hamsters in September, she remembers her kids started jumping up and down and saying "Please! Please! Can we buy them?"

Seeing a fully stocked shelf, she decided to hold off until Christmas.

That was "before I knew that the hamsters would soon be off the shelves and more scarce than an H1N1 vaccine," said Fowlkes, 32.

Now she can't find them any-

Zhu Zhu Pets retail for about \$10 and have quickly become this year's must have Christmas gift. Retailers are scratching their heads at how it happened while parents are getting creative in the where.

Zhu Zhu Pets, which retail for about \$10, are this year's bona fide must-have toy, following in the footsteps of past crazes for Tickle Me Elmo and Cabbage Patch Kids. On resale websites like eBay and Craigslist, they fetch \$40 or more. Vital accessories such as the hamster car and funhouse are sold sep-

arately. By many counts, the toy g is an unlike-ly hit.



They're in a field crowded with toy pets. The hamsters, which scurry around, make noises and drive cars, don't always work the way you expect and have a limited range of action.

"Honestly, I don't really get it," said BMO Capital Markets analyst Gerrick Johnson. "But I don't need to get it for a toy to be hot."

They have one big thing going for them in tough economic times: They're cheap, Johnson said

"The last couple of years the robotic pet has been very popular, but those have been very expensive," like Hasbro's \$250 robotic dinosaur Kota the Triceratops, he said. "But here's

a version of a robotic pet that only costs \$10."

Zhu Zhu Pets, aimed at three- to 10-year-olds, have rushed in to fill the void.

But unlike past "It" toys made by large manufacturers like Mattel's Tickle Me Elmo and Tiger Electronic's Furby, Zhu Zhu Pets are made by tiny Cepia Inc. of St. Louis, with just 16 employees in the U.S. and 30 in China, making their success even more unlikely.

Creation of a craze

Just six years old, Cepia previously worked on an electronic dispensing device for consumer products before turning to toys and its only other product, a line of light-up bears called **Glo-E Bears**.

The company was started by toy industry vet Russ Hornsby, 56.

The success of **Zhu Zhu Pets** wasn't entirely accidental. The company got the word out with a savvy mix of local cable ads and parties thrown by "mommy bloggers."

Hornsby said he was hoping to sell three to four pets per store per week, but was secretly hoping for eight. The result, Hornsby said, was exponentially higher, though he wouldn't say how much.

"The rate was so astonishing everybody had to go back and pinch themselves," Hornsby said. Toys "R" Us pulled all of the test data to make sure it wasn't being manipulated, Hornsby said.

Keeping up with demand

For parents, the hamster hunt is intense. A Facebook fan site tracks parent's search for the toys. Hornsby said he got a call at on his cellphone from a mom asking for hamsters.

"They're calling because they're upset and they feel we're not doing a good enough job getting merchandise on the shelves," Hornsby said.

But with retailers being extra cautious with orders this year following the dismal holiday season last year, the maker has had to scramble to make enough to catch up to demand.

Toy analyst Jim Silver at Timetoplaymag.com said it was late fall by the time Cepia and retailers realized how popular the toys were, and by that time it was difficult to increase production.

"You can't just go to China and flip a switch," he said. But in the past three months, the company has added three more factories

"Retailers are airlifting in millions of products," Hornsby said.

Hornsby estimates the company will sell \$100 million in Zhu Zhu Pets by the end of the year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peanuts holiday card, plays Christmas Is Coming, \$21.99 for a box of five. Available at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Holiday Shopping Guide

The 12 spirits of Christr

PETER ROCKWELL for Metro Canada

Selecting the perfect liquid for those solids in your life can be a challenge: so here are my choice picks for every one of those beverage lovers in your life:

Best bets under

\$25 Wychwood Brewery Bah Humbug Christmas Ale, \$3.45

Ebenezer Scrooge's face peering out from a beer label might scare the Dickens out of some, but this malty English brew will have the ale aficionados on your list drinking merry.

Faxe Premium Gift Pack, \$9.85-

\$9.95 If you're going to gift just one beer this year, why not make it a big one? This crisp litre of is lager food-friendly thirstquencher that comes with its own mega mug.

Freixenet Cordon Rosado Brut, \$12.95-\$15.99

The bubbly berry goodness of this Spanish rosé will appeal to any wine lover. Perfect with food, it's a

match made in brunch, lunch and dinner heaven

Moselland 2008 Ars Vitis Riesling,

\$9.95-\$17.99 Forget what it looks like in the glass, this refreshing, off-dry



man white is a knockout while still in the bottle. The winter scene has a limited run; looking as good as the wine tastes.

Best bets under \$50

Absolut Celebration Vodka.

\$25.95-\$27.49 OK, so vodka can make for a pretty neutral gift. Wrapping it in a cool blue plastic casing (that throws a bit BOLLINGER of a disco vibe) is something to cele-brate. Absolut switches up the look each year so this one's for the

Sailor Jerry's Spiced Navy Rum, \$26.95

collectors

What's eggnog's bestriend? Why an ounce or two of rum, spiced best rum, of course. Sailor Jerry was a tattooist (hence the label) and his spicy spirited nametakes mixed drinks to the next lev-

Chambord Liqueur, \$36.99-

When it comes to TAYLOR FLADG fruit liqueurs, the ripe black raspberry inten-Chambord of (named for the French Château) can't be beat. It looks fine and tastes even better - especially when a few drops are added to white or sparkling wine.

> Taylor Fladgate 10 Year Old Tawny Port,

\$34.95-\$39.81 Port is the classic seasonal sipper with this full-figseasonal ured style made from a blend of vintages no less than a decade old. Roaring fire not included.

Splurges \$50+ **Glenora Dis**tillery Glen Breton Rare Single Malt Canadian Whisky,

\$74.95-\$89.55

Though scotch connoismay pooh-pooh

whisky, this Nova Scotian is the only single malt version made in North America and upstages its novelty with a great mouthfeel.

> Patron Silver Tequila, \$74.99-\$89.99

High-end tequila is mixable and as shootable as the cheaper stuff — it iust tastes a lot better. Co-owned by Dan Aykroyd, a bottle of white Patron will bring a smile to the face any spirit (or Ghostbuster) fan.

Bollinger Special Cuvée Champagne, \$79.95-\$82.92

For the 007 buff on your list, nothing will put the sparkle in their glass like a bottle of Bollinger. Rich and sophisticated, the Ĉhampagne maker has been on-screen Bond's since the choice days of Pierce Brosnan.

2 Remy Martin Louis XIII Cognac, \$1,870-2,400

There isn't a drop of booze

Backarack Crystal bottle under the age of 50 making it the dream dram for cognac lovers and pretty good over ice with a splash of Coke.





Limited Edition Lemongrass Cardamom Holiday Collection Luxury bath and body cream, \$18 each. Available at Bath & Body Works, bathandbodyworks.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Get wrapped up





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damage for homes in loca-

tions that experience

freeze-thaw cycles - like

Southern Ontario and the

West Coast — is the for-

mation of ice-dams, says

McBride. That's when

heat escapes through in-adequate insulation in the

attic, melting rooftop

snow, damaging shingles

and even leaking through

To prevent ice-dams, McBride suggests in-

stalling fresh batt or blow-

in insulation. While it can

get pricey, he says, "It's

the roof.

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Never too late to batten the hatches

'Winterizing' your home is a vital step for both comfort and your pocketbook

BRIAN COULTON for Metro Canada



Old Man Winter doesn't like your house.

It's not you. It's him. With his combination of freezing temperatures, roaring winds and heaps of snow, how can the guy resist inching his way into window crack, flooding unprotected nooks, and picking apart a structure so inferior to his climatic wrath?

But don't worry just yet; it's not too late to restore your blizzardy bond. Merv McBride, owner of home improvement chain Handyman Connection says by taking a few, economical steps to winterize your home, you can ward off damage and save money on home heating bills.

"When winterizing your home, you're really thinking about three things: Energy conservation and how to save money, how to preserve air quality and how to avoid any damage to your home," he says.



"If it's a crack in the frame, caulking is the way to go to seal that hole. If it's a loose

Merv McBride, owner of home improvement

probably small in comparison to the money you're losing with the heat going through the ceiling, especially if you're in a very cold climate."

Flooding can also result from clogged eaves troughs, which McBride

suggests clearing out well before winter descends. "If that water can't get away, it ends up running over the edge of the eaves and down to the foundation of your home," he says, "The ground's says, "The ground's frozen, the warmest part is near the house and if you get a lot of water built up against the foundation, it could escape into your home.

As a general tip for homeowners across Canada, McBride says checking for, and sealing cracks in windows and doors can reduce escaping heat and utility bills.

"If it's a crack in the frame, caulking is the way to go to seal that hole. If it's a loose window in the frame, your only choice is to put weather stripping in there." To make sure your sealing is successful, turn off the lights, look outside and if you see light, McBride says it means air is entering and the crevasse must be cov-

Be sure to seal your windows this winter.

Beyond conserving heat and protecting physical structure, taking strides to ensure there's good air quality in your home can promote good winter health. For grade-A air, McBride proposes having your furnace professionally checked each season and ensuring furnace fil-ters are completely clean.



chain Handyman Connection on windows



26 metro homes

Online sauna sources

Saunafin.com, greatsaunas.com, farnorthsaunas.com and a plethora of other websites offer many different kinds of saunas. SYLVIA PUTZ/FOR METRO CANADA

Relax in a sauna on your own time

HomeScape



here are a few different ways to generate evenings, but the one I was thinking about most recently, I must admit, is the sauna.

Not being of Finnish extraction, I first glimpsed an indoor sauna cedar-lined little room in the suburban basement of a friend's house — a few decades ago. We tried it out, but didn't really get it. Apparently, neither did the rest of my friend's family, since they started

Piece Wood Pub Se

n Stock For Christma

using it as a storage closet not long after that.

But times changed. Spas and relaxation and walking around in big fluffy robes with white fuzzy slippers are big these days. And this could help explain why pre-built saunas, not very evident a few years ago, are now starting to appear in hardware and bath

I now understand the appeal of the sauna more than I used to. Although not everyone would agree, there is a sizable group of people who believe that it's a wonderful feeling to sit in a hot wooden box and sweat, cool down (and perhaps roll in the snow), and then do it again. It relaxes, relieves stress, and creates a feeling of well-being. Plus, let's face it, it's a

huge hoot. Of course, there are all sorts of possibilities just check online and you'll see the huge range of saunas, both traditional with different types of heaters and infrared, for indoor and outdoor, in different sizes and finishes, and in every price range, from \$1,000 for a small portable unit up to \$5,000 or more for a large four-person cedar pre-fab



If relaxation and walking around in big fluffy robes with white fuzzy slippers sounds good to you, a sauna might be a good investment.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.



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Style

Be a man: Wear a skirt

Runway trend goes mainstream at H&M

skirts, pleated skirts and

HIMANI EDIRIWEERA for Metro Canada

high profile designer Marc

Jacobs started appearing in

one for shows and events a

Social conditioning that

few seasons ago.

long

kilts, for men. After all, men have been wearing skirts as part of

native attire for years -The evolution of man continues on the runway the Scottish kilt, the Greek as the man-skirt is offifoustanella, the dhoti and cially introduced into the lungi in India, the sarong mainstream fashion lexiin Southeast Asia, and the con as part of H&M's 2010 lavalava in Samoa. spring collection for men.

Western culture has long resisted the man-skirt, holding fears of it being Designers started put-ting men in skirts and sending them down the branded as effeminate. "Our spring collection has a strong global inspirarunway but the world did not really take notice until

tion and many ethnic in-fluences," said Karen Richter, showroom manager at H&M Canada. "Men wearing skirts is common in many other cultures around the world."

gings and a tough boot.

H&M shows the pleated skort with a graphic T-shirt, a tailored blazer, leg-

in Europe but North Americans can't seem to let go of MC Hammer and "...Can't Touch This," look.

Givenchy, Dior Homme, Phillip Lim, Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren and many others designers re-introduced the drop-crotch silhouette.

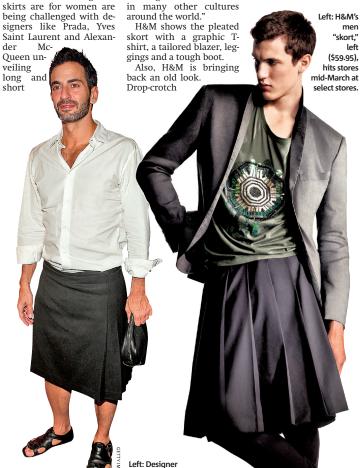
pants, or harem pants, for

It's a trend that can be

seen on men and women

the urban man some might remember from the late '80s.

H&M shows the harem pants with a bright T-shirt, graphic maxi scarf and a cotton spring jacket.



Marc Jacobs.



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NHL fans can score an Old Navy hockey "jersey" with new limited edition two-in-one shirts for boys and girls. They feature teams such as the Toronto Maple Leafs, Ottawa Senators and more. Kids shirts are \$18.50 and baby tees are \$16.50. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Deciphering Mrs. O's style

New book examines first lady's fashion over the past year

KENYA HUNT Metro World News



An advertising account planner by day, Tomer has spent her free time during the past 12 months tirelessly cataloguing the US first lady's outfits, which is no easy task. (Is that belt Azzedine Alaïa or J.Crew?) It involves a certain amount of detective work, including countless hours studying runway photos on Style.com and sending emails to fashion publicity firms.

As a result, Tomer's site has become a must-read for industry insiders, fashion lovers and Ms. Obama fans alike

Here Tomer breaks down the method behind her



Mrs. O: The Face of Fashion Democracy by Mary Tomer is available at Chapters and Indigo stores across the country or online at chapters.indigo.ca for \$31.99.

website:

Sussing out Mrs. Obama's favourites: "When I was starting up the blog, I would religiously study the top collections of the season on

First lady face-off

• Michelle Obama beat out Carla Bruni for the first spot in French Elle's annual "Political Chic" best-dressed list. The magazine gave the American First Lady credit for her adventurous style and her penchant for wearing

younger, emerging designers such as Thakoon and Jason Wu. Meanwhile, Carla Bruni, who tends to stick with more established, iconic designers, came in at number two. KENYA HUNT/ METRO WORLD NEWS

Style.com. Early on, I became aware that Ikram Goldman was an influential force in Michelle Obama's wardrobe, so I particularly studied up on the designers carried in her Chicago boutique," she ex-

Canvassing the fashion brands: "There was one Mrs. O mystery look that I was determined to include in this book, but I had to identify the designer in order to do so. As I was doing research and interviews for the book, I would ask vari-

ous PR people if their designer was responsible," she says. "Someone finally pointed me to Jonathan Saunders and I then confirmed with his PR team."

Building a helpful peanut gallery: "If I wasn't sure (of an outfit), I would throw out a few suggestions on the blog, and see what the site community thought. The site community has grown considerably, so even when I'm stuck, someone on the blog can weigh in to help me identify the design-

Hepburn's chic wardrobe auctioned off in London

AUCTION Audrey Hepburn fans now have a chance to purchase dozens of garments and personal effects once belonging to the movie star in an auction that began this week in London.

A Givenchy cocktail dress and cropped jacket made from black lace which Hepburn wore in the 1966 romantic comedy How to Steal a Million, costarring Peter O'Toole — is expected to fetch the sale's highest price of between 15,000-20,000 pounds though auctioneer Kerry Taylor acknowledges the estimates are very approximate. She said that clothes having once belonged to Hepburn, who died in 1993, rarely come to auction and the last two pieces fetched a whopping US\$1 million.

"These are harder times, and I've tried to keep my feet on the ground," she said, adding that lots start at an estimated 250 pounds for a straw hat Another headpiece, a domed hat by Givenchy in green velvet with dangling beaded and



Audrey Hepburn's black lace Givenchy dress.

feathered tassels, was featured in a 1964 Vogue shoot, and is estimated at 800-1 200 pounds

800-1,200 pounds.

Most of the lots come from the closets of Tanja Star-Busmann, a longtime friend of the actress. The two met in London when Tanja was 15 years old and Hepburn 20 — just before her career took off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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30

It's a boy for Bundchen and Brady

Gisele Bundchen has given birth to a healthy baby boy, according to People magazine, although she and Tom Brady did not release details on the birth or the name of the newborn. METRO WORLD NEWS

Entertainment

Extortion threat

threatening photos of the former

Sorry attempt to apologize

Chris Brown

Album: Graffiti Label: Jive/Sony Music Rating: @

CHRIS BROWN SHOULD have waited year before releasing a new record,



as it's impossible not to listen to this and hear another half-hearted attempt to apologize for beating the pulp out of Rihanna, while making himself out to be the wounded boyfriend. Famous Girl is the most explicit song about his ex. And an offensive one at "You were the first to games," "Keisha would have told me I was

sent from heaven," "Some famous girls will break heart" classic blame the victim behaviour. Skip this disingenuous - and musically vapid

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album: Til The Casket Drops Label: Re-Up/Columbia Rating: ####

MALICE AND Pusha T could sell records based on praise.



commercial disaster of 2006's brilliant Hell Hath than both Jay-Z and Eminem. But after an oppressive record deal and the No Fury, the Thornton



Chris Brown makes a half-hearted attempt to apologize on Graffiti.

brothers return with newfound relaxedness. works both for and against them on their third album. Mixing it up with Cam'ron and Kanye, the bravado comes with an airy exhilaration, but joints with Pharrell and Keri Hilson cry for mainstream acceptance. Still, minus the signature coke-raps and hard knocks, it's still the Clipse, and they're still kinda like a big deal.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

YOU COULD

CharlotteGainsbourg

Album: IRM Label: Because/Warner Rating: @@@@

THIS ALBUM should be co-credited Beck. who wrote all of the



music and co-wrote the lyrics. Named after the traumatic brain hemorrhage Charlotte suffered after a water-skiing accident, IRM is a collaboration that's as much the influence of her parents (Serge Gainsbourg and Jane Birkin) as it is Beck's recent string of studio quickies.

While it's their duet on Heaven Can Wait and the crank eccentricity Greenwich Mean Tim that will attract his fans, it's the lush, seductive orchestrations peppered throughout and psychedelic sound collages like IRM and Trick Pony that make it her album and not just Beck's pet proj-

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Cana

Neil Young

Album: Dreamin' Man Label: Reprise/Warner Rating: @@@@

WINNIPEG-

RAISED Neil Young can't do anything wrong, even when he re-



leases his least exciting live album to date. Dreamin Man was recorded in 1992 and features every song off Harvest Moon. In terms of the singer-songwriters' live discs, it's not as thrilling as Live at Massey Hall or Live at the Fillmore East, but it's still damn good. It's just Young and his acoustic playing mellow renditions of the already low-key Harvest Moon. It's haunting and dramatic and his voice is in perfect shape. An excellent holiday gift for the Neil lover.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

30 Seconds To Mars

Album: This is War Label: Virgin/EMI

IF ONLY ALL musicians fawere mous actors first. Unlike

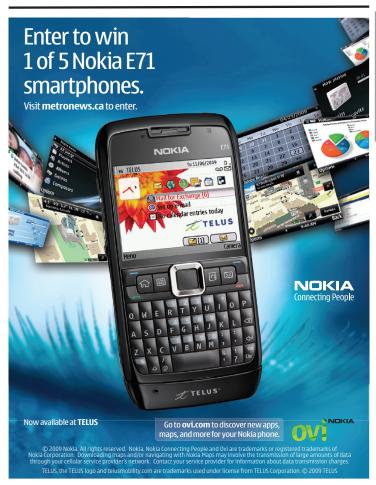


Jared Leto's 30 Seconds To Mars had a built-in audience when it formed, which has helped the group sell millions of records. Their music can't be the reason for the success — it's some of the most unimaginative work around. The group's latest is a messy collection of U2like rock songs loaded with Leto's distorted howls and yells and uncoordinated guitars. It's also incredibly mundane. He's done one good things here — getting fans around the world to contribute sounds to the disc - but that's where the group's creativity ends.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

m.metrenews.ca







A PAIR OF ADVANCE SCREENING PASSES TO SEE THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS!

Jennifer to play Adam's Eve

Jennifer Aniston will play Adam Sandler's wife in a new movie. The actress is reportedly in negotiations to star opposite the actor in a romantic comedy, The Pretend Wife. Plot details are being kept firmly under wraps. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



entertainment 31

Old friends tackle post-apartheid

Nelson Mandela made it clear that Morgan Freeman was the man he would want to play him in a film.

When it came time to play Mandela in Invictus, Freeman told producing partner Lori McCreary that he had two men in mind to direct the film, which dramatizes Mandela's partnership with a African rugby star (played by Matt Damon) to rally their post-apartheid countrymen behind the team's underdog quest for the 1995 World Cup.

"I said, 'I can only think of two. Clint Eastwood, and then there's Clint Eastwood.' He's the best director I know," Freeman says of the filmmaker who gave him a plum role in Unforgiven and an Academy Award-winning part in Million Dollar Baby.

comment Freeman's comes moments before Eastwood enters the room for a joint interview, amiable banter and wisecracks ensuing as the two longtime friends and col-leagues talk about their third collaboration.

Informed of the compli-



Unforgiven buddies Eastwood and Freeman back in the saddle for Invictus, which opens in theatres tomorrow.

right after I told Matt that

he was the best actor in

. You al-

Freeman: "Doesn't

the world.

matter . .

ment Freeman had just paid him as his only choice to direct Invictus, East-wood shoots back: "That's very kind of him. He's obviously a man of very good taste and selectivity in

Freeman follows with a reminder that Eastwood had once "stood up in public with a microphone and called me the best actor in the world."

The exchange continues: Eastwood: "That was

my inadequacies."
Freeman: "And he says. he can stand back and let them do their thing, then take all the credit.

With Invictus, Freeman was the first man on board, sending the script Eastwood's way, hoping his friend would want to direct.

Freeman had been meeting with Mandela since the 1990's with the idea of adapting the jailed-activistturned-president's memoir Long Walk to Freedom for the big-screen. Then journalist John Carlin told Freeman about his book. Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation, recounting the new South African president's cheer-

leading that united whites and blacks behind the na-Invictus tional rugby team.

ways go for the best." Eastwood: "I The in theatres do pride myself fort fined on that. I bethe healing lieve in sur-rounding myself tomorrow spirit Mandela brought with the very best people, and that to the nation. cuts down the margin Freeman says. for error, and that covers

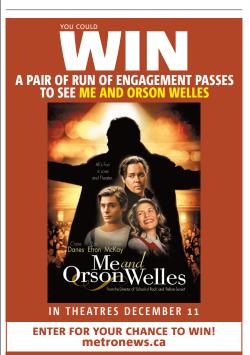
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barker settles lawsuit over plane crash

LEGAL Former Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker has settled his lawsuit against several companies

over a plane crash last year that killed four people, attorneys said Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





In **brief IDOL'S VOTING QUESTIONED**

Clay Aiken received a lot of votes as an American Idol contestant and eventual runnerup. Now, it's his lone vote that's drawing attention in North Carolina. The Wake County Board of Elections scheduled a meeting Wednesday to examine a complaint questioning Aiken's voter registration in the county.

DEATH Movie producer Tyler Perry says his mother, Willie Maxine Perry, has died. Tyler Perry announced the news of the Tuesday and thanked fans for their prayers.

DUKING IT OUT A charitable trust set up by The Dukes of Hazzard creator has filed a new \$15 million federal lawsuit against Warner Bros., claiming the studio and its television production company shortchanged it on royalties stemming from the hit series.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







What's coltan? It's an ore from which tantalum, used in electronics is extracted Like diamonds, it can be obtained from both clean and questionable sources. The Democratic Republic of Congo falls in the latter column because the coltan trade is linked to the violence there. In this new episode, Kessler, Darnell and Charlotte (James McGowan, Jim Codrington, Daisy Beaumont) discover a Canadian link to a Congolese coltan smuggling operation. 9 PM on CBXT



Everything's Gone Green Crime doesn't pay — mentally anyway. In cash? Well, sometimes. In this 2006 comedy, Paulo Costanzo stars as Rvan. a slacker who works for a lottery magazine. When he's offered a position laundering money, he actually agrees. But after the cash starts rolling in, he realizes he feels too guilty to do anything with it. Steph Song, JR Bourne and Susan Hogan also star. 7 PM on BRAVO

32 entertainment

Edmonton's Creations honoured

Where magazine has announced its list of Best New Restaurants of 2009. Edmonton's Creations Dining Room and Lounge made the cut. Visit where.ca for the complete list. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Cha-Siu Organic Pembina Pork Tenderloin (\$23) Rating: @@@@%

Dinner & drinks for 2: \$80

Wilson Wu and his sister, Judy, ran Polo's Café for 10 years before they changed up their game. Wild Tangerine is an elegant urban bistro like many others, with a truly extraordinary (and largely locally sourced) menu.

The restaurant's narrow strip mall storefront is easily missed, but the warm. modern decor rewards the lucky visitor. Our sweet server quickly supplied me with a summery sangria tangerino (\$9), flavoured

On the web

 Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

with tangerine, mango and lemon juices.

We started with Judy's famous shrimp lollipops (\$9), which looked like shredded wheat on a stick. I dipped my messy treat into the mild wasabi yogurt and crunched away happily. I swiped a second one before my bride could finish her first

Our server deposited my pork tenderloin (\$23), its spicy tangerine glaze glistening in the candlelight. The aroma was phenomenal. I let the spicy heat of the tender local pork build up in my mouth, accompanied by the ribbons of ginger that crowned my meal. I chased each bite with a sip of sangria and started

We couldn't linger over dessert that evening, so I

Pork Tenderloin (\$23).

left the gingered bread pudding untasted. However. I would be back for a little more of Judy's fare: the Gold Medal Plate winner has more than a few tricks up her sleeve, and I plan to sample every one.

Global Peasant blog online

- Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/ globalpeasant for a recipe of Orange Spice Molasses Cookies.



Dining out

CHOCOLATE FIX

How well do you know your chocolate? Kerstin's Chocolates is running a Name That Origin Contest to crown Edmonton's Top Taster. Different regions infuse their cacao beans with distinctive flavours: visit Kerstin's and test your

palate until Dec. 22. There is no entry fee. Identify four unmarked pieces of singleorigin chocolate and instantly win a container of Čhocophilia drinking chocolate. Edmonton's Top Taster will win a \$400 gift certificate! Visit Kerstins-Chocolates.com for details.

In **brief**

SLOW FOOD Today is Terra Madre Day, the Slow Food movement's 20th anniversary. In a secret location in Edmonton, there will be a screening of The Islanders, a film about the joy of food. For \$20, savour food and help send a local farmer to the Terra Madre conference in Italy.

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- Photography by Lata
- d Karla Snider
 - "Karla is a fresh, young, modern photographer with a definite talent.
- 🚔 Andrea Hanki
 - "She is just fantastic and so creative."

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& Restaurant

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Christmas at Chianti

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10501-82 Avenue, 'Old Strathcona' 780.439.9829 | chainticafe.ca

ADVERTISING FEATURE



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For advertising information contact Christine Gakhal

780.701.0344

christine.gakhal@metronews.ca

Urban Eats runs Thursdays in Metro.

Merry grilling

Here's one grilling tip if you plan to barbecue the bird during the holidays: When the air temperature is frigid, keep the barbecue lid down as heat will escape very quickly and it can take a long time to get back to cooking temperature. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Urban Foodie

Before and after

Chocolate **Almond Profiteroles**

INGREDIENTS:

75 ml (1/3 cup) ground almonds 250 ml (1 cup) water 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter, cut into cubes 15 ml (1 tbsp) granulated sugar Pinch salt

250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose

flour 4 eggs FILLING INGREDIENTS

250 ml (1 cup) 18 per cent table cream or 10 per cent half-and-half cream 30 ml (2 tbsp) granulated sugar

15 ml (1 tbsp) cornstarch 2 eggs

90 g (3 oz) bittersweet dark chocolate, chopped 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla 175 ml (3/4 cup) sliced almonds, toasted

DRIZZLE INGREDIENTS

60 g (2 oz) bittersweet dark chocolate, chopped 75 ml (1/3 cup) 18 per cent table cream or 10 per cent half-and-half cream

METHOD:

- In a medium saucepan, toast almonds over medium heat, stirring constantly, for about 2 minutes or until golden and fragrant. Transfer to a bowl; set aside.
- In same saucepan, combine water, butter, sugar and salt; bring to a boil over high heat. Remove from heat and add flour and toasted almonds. With a wooden spoon, stir vigorously until a ball of dough forms and comes away from the sides of the pan.
- Add 1 of the eggs and stir vigorously until incorporated. Repeat, adding eggs one at a time, beating until dough is smooth, paste-like and slightly shiny.
- Bake in top and bottom third of oven rotating

pans halfway for about 20 minutes or until puffed and golden and they sound hollow when tapped on the bottom.

- Turn oven off. Remove baking sheets from oven; with the tip of a paring knife, poke a slit in the side of each profiterole. Let stand for 15 minutes. Filling: In a small saucepan, heat cream over medium heat until steaming. In a bowl, whisk sugar with cornstarch; whisk in eggs until blended. Gradually whisk hot cream into egg mixture in thin, steady stream.
- Return to saucepan. Cook over medium-low, whisking constantly for 3 to 8 minutes or until thick. Stir in chocolate and vanilla until melted. Transfer to a cool bowl; place plastic wrap directly on the surface and refrigerate until chilled, 1 to 2 hours or for up to 2 days.

Chocolate Drizzle: In a

heatproof bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water, melt chocolate and cream, stirring until smooth: keep warm. To serve: Cut profiteroles in half crosswise, almost but not all the way through. Spoon about 15 ml (1 tbsp) filling into each profiterole, sprinkle with toasted almonds and cov-

Place 3 on each serving MAKES ABOUT 8 SERVINGS

er with profiterole top.

Easy Pepper Dip

INGREDIENTS

1 jar (375 ml/13 fl oz) roasted bell peppers, drained 1 clove garlic, minced Olive oil Salt and pepper

METHOD:

 Puree roasted peppers with garlic until smooth.



Chocolate Almond Profiteroles are a great after dinner snack

Drizzle in just a touch of olive oil while pureeing until vou have vour desired consistency (thicker than a sauce), then season to taste and chill until ready to serve.

MAKES 250 ML (1 CUP)



THE CANADIAN PRESS Easy Pepper Dip goes great before any meal.



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Hours: 12

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Fee: \$240

INTRODUCTION TO

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Jan 25 to Feb 8, 2010 | Mon, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

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Jan 30, 2010 | Sat, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fee: \$125

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Nicky Hilton has been burgled, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The break-in at the blonde socialite's Hollywood home was reported at 3.30 p.m. Tuesday and a host of expensive items were stolen. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Nicolas Cage's ex suing his pants off Madonna's three kids

The mother of his 18-year-old child is accusing the actor of fraud

YACHTS! Nicolas Cage's financial and legal nightmare continues to grow, people.com reports.

Christina Fulton, mother of Cage's eldest child Weston, 18, is suing the actor for fraud and breach of contract, alleging she's been caught in the web of his financial mismanagement and is now more than \$1.2 million US in debt herself, Los Angeles court papers show.

Cage stated in an October lawsuit he faces financial ruin after allegedly being duped by a former accountant, Samuel

Levin. The actor currently owes \$6.3 million in back taxes, recently defaulted on a \$2 million loan, and has begun a massive selloff of homes, cars, vachts and other possessions to recoup his losses.

Fulton, 42, a former actress, says she was provided an L.A. home years ago by Cage in exchange for raising Weston, and believed the property was

> under her name. That is until September,

when Cage allegedly served her with a 60day notice to get out.

Fulton says that because of Cage and Levin's negligence, she now owes the IRS more than \$1 million, in addition to \$250,000 in unpaid credit card debt. She says the credit card was supposed to be paid off regularly by Cage and that fraudulent charges were racked up by a staffer hired by the actor who didn't undergo a sufficient background check.

All told, Fulton says damages to her exceed \$13 million.

Levin, the accountant, has coun-

tersued Cage, stating

the actor's financial colpulsive, self-destructive spending." lapse was due to his "com-

METRO WORLD NEWS













Tequila shoots to the altar

ALT. TEQUILA. LIME. I DO. Tila Tequila is getting married to Johnson & Johnson heiress Casey Johnson — or so she said Wednesday morning in a rambling USTREAM video, usmagazine.com

reports. "We have an announcement," the 27 year-old MTV reality star began. "...So are you ready for this

announcement that's going to change our lives?

"I love you guys so much, we are giving you the exclusive first — Tila the exclusive first army fans — tonight, my girlfriend has asked me to marry her!'

She then flashed a "17carat diamond ring from my ba-

METRO NEWS

Rihanna's secret silver screen wish

KISSES DON'T LIE Rihanna wouldn't mind giving acting a try. And she has just the role for herself. "I'd love to be an assassin. Either that or a lesbian. Maybe both! Hev. a gay assassin, there's nothing hotter than that," she tells the Daily Star. When asked who she'd like to play her onscreen girlfriend, the singer insists, "Megan Fox - hands down. She's

yummy."

NEWS

Fergie thinks about having children

A FERGALICIOUS FAMILY POSsibly hoping to put their recent alleged cheating scandal behind them, Fergie says she and Josh Duhammel are ready to start a family.

"Am I getting broody? Oh, definitely," she tells British Cosmopolitan. "I want to finish this tour

> ing to start a METRO WORLD NEWS

first before try-

Celebrity tweets

Paris Hilton comes out strongly against burglary, Stan Lee laments his inability to ask for money, Tom Arnold breaks

the rules, and John Cleese got through eye surgery despite the pressure from his fans.

@parishilton | HATE people who steal! It's so wrong! I hope they catch whoever did this! There has been so many robberies lately. So

- @smilinstanlee Here's proof I'm a lousy businessman: Other guys become movie stars and get rich. I become a cameo star-- and get thank you's.
- @TomArnold In Shanghai doing @Asia_Uncut - nice people but Twitter banned here, oops
- @JohnCleese All well, the deed was done, and I can now see again... just... thank

you all for your prayers and death threats (you know who you are).

METRO WORLD NEWS

Barton is okay with kissing girls

GIRLS ARE EASY Mischa Barton finds it peculiar that she's often asked to lock lips with another girl onscreen - she's done it three times in her young career - but she doesn't think it's a bad thing, according to Hollyscoop. "I don't know why that keeps coming up," says Barton. "It doesn't annoy me that much. It's so much easier to kiss another girl. You're so much more relaxed filming and you can have a laugh. It can get a bit tense with a





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WELCOME TO OUR PLACE.

Sticky & Sweet world tour, Madonna's nine-MADGE'S OWN DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION It looks tour, vear-old son with director like that it won't just be Madonna's daughter Guy Ritchie, Rocco joined Lourdes featuring in her her on stage. work — four-year-old son "When he jumped on David has revealed a love stage to dance in my last show, I was shocked actuof the superstar's work. people.com reports. ally," she said. "Ĥe knows every song, "And secretly, unbeevery word, every step,

dance it out on stage

knownst to me, they're all studying privately with my dancers. And Rocco comes out and busts out like a moonwalk or you know, some kind of break-dancing move.

"He's always been quite shy so I was shocked when he wanted to be in

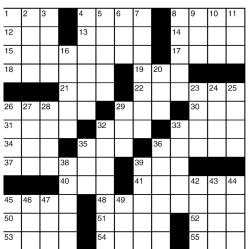








Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	8						5	
4				8				2
5			9		1			7
		3	6		8	4		
				4				
		2	3		7	1		
6			4		2			1
2				1				9
	7						8	

1 Recipe meas. 4 Circulate 8 Wield an axe 12 Blackbird 13 Staffer 14 Posterior 15 Chickening out feeling 17 Aware of 18 Rectangular

19 Spread seeds 21 Chart format 22 Exces-sively 26 Old anesthetic 29 Conk out 30 Born 31 Curds' mate

32 Parcel of land 33 Pack cargo 34 Historic time 35 Jewel 36 Saturn has many 37 Legislation 39 Old French

coin 40 Coffee vessel 41 Capital of Oman

45 Creche trio 48 Ready to

rumble 50 Not "fer" 51 Parliamentarian, perhaps 52 Lawyers' org. 53 Safecracker 54 Albanian coins 55 Bygone space station

1 Mexican entree 2 Uppity one 3 Dosage, maybe 4 Dragon of Norse myth 5 Loyal subject 6 Rhyming tribute 7 Diver's garb 8 Mob 9 Coop denizen 10 Feedbag morsel 11 In favor of 16 Sleepy companion? 20 Inseparable 23 "Do — others

24 Trotsky or

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

9 1 8

> 2 3

9 7

> 4 5 9

7 3 9

4 5 1 3

2 8 6

8 6 2

Russell

accessory 27 From one end to t'other 28 Get better 29 Comic DeLuise 32 Humorous hoax 33 March King 35 Wildebeest 36 Almond Joys minus almonds 38 Cake enhancement 39 Smug smile 42 Study all night 43 Both (Pref.) 44 Autocrat

25 Evergreens

26 Basin

45 Spring part 46 Time of your life?

47 Showbiz job 49 "Ulalume" writer

6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1

5 6 7

9

7 4 5

2 1 8

6 5 2

1 7 4

8 9

4 3 2

8 6

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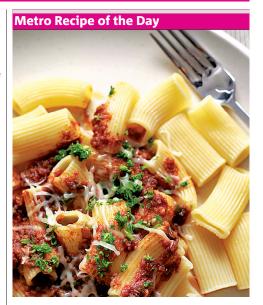
1 8

7 2

5 9

daily

3 6 2 7



Quick Garlic Pasta Sauce

Submitted by: Debra Nasuti Winnipeg, MB

INGREDIENTS:

1 Cup olive oil 1/4 Cup water 3 Tablespoon paprika 6 Clove garlic chopped fine (more if desired) 1/2 Teaspoon salt (adjust to your taste) 2 Teaspoon parsley chopped

1/2 Cup grated parmesan cheese 1/2 chili pepper chopped fine (optional)

METHOD:

1. Heat oil and water over low heat. Add garlic and fry gently you do not want to burn the garlic. Add paprika, salt, and chili peppers (if you choose) and fry for 5 minutes. Keep stirring another 5 minutes. Paprika will thicken to a sauce like texture. Turn heat up slowly over the 5 minutes and watch that it does not burn

2. Pour over pasta of your choice. Add the cheese and parsley and toss.

SERVES 4

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES



20 Minute Supper Club helps you get dinner ready in a snap. Sign up for quick and delicious recipes, cooking and food tips. It's free at 20minute

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Your confidence may be lower than usual but bear in mind that what seems low to you still seems high to most other peo-

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23

ple.

(≏) Come and go as you please today and ignore those who say you should stay where you are and see to your responsibilities.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

There are some suspicious things going on at the moment and you can't help but wonder if someone is plotting against vou. Don't overreact.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

The only real danger today is that you might be a bit too for-giving for your own good. It might send the wrong signal.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21 Like it or not you will have to admit that someone you thought you could trust has been taking advantage of your generous nature.

On the web

ENOUGH BLOOD AND GORE JEREMY! IT'S TIME TO DO YOUR HOME WORK ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Don't worry too much if a loved one is difficult to get along with today because there is absolutely nothing wrong with your relationship.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22 In the greater scheme of things coincidences are rare, so be on your guard if a dangerous pattern seems to be repeating it-

CAPRICORN

self

DEC 22-JAN 20
If you are finding it hard to reach an agreement with some-one about a business-related issue you are advised to leave it a

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Hard luck stories will be two-apenny today, but not one of them is true. A little suspicion is no bad thing.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

By all means use your imagination and find ways to boost your wealth and wellbeing, but avoid wishful thinking.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

It's good to speak your mind, of course, but if you are wise you

won't say anything too outra-geous today.

PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20



You may be reluctant to cross swords with a rival today but the planets warn if you back down you can be bullied every day of the week.

Today in history

1898 - Spanish-American War: The Treaty of Paris is signed, officially ending the conflict. 1901 – The first Nobel Prizes are awarded. 1968 – Japan's biggest heist, the still-unsolved 300 million yen robbery, is carried out in Tokyo. 1996 - Rwandan Genocide: Military advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General and head of the Military Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Maurice Baril recommends that the UN multi-national forces in Zaire stand down.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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